

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 OC-06 CCO-00

SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 /113 W

-----086045 071315Z /45

O R 071224Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4527

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, CD, FR

SUBJECT: BARDAI FALLS, ZOUAR UNDER INCREASED ATTACK

1. SUMMARY: THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR INFORMED ME THIS MORNING THAT BARDAI HAD QRALED, ATTACKS ON ZOUAR WERE INCREASING AND MOROCCO WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING CONCRETE ASSISTANCE TO CHAD.

2. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING REGARDING DETERIORATING SITUATION IN NORTHERN CHAD, HE INFORMED ME THAT HELICOPTER RECONNAISSANCE OF BARDAI SHOWED NO SIGN OF LIFE, AND THE STRONGHOLD HAS OBVIOUSLY FALLEN TO THE REBELS. HE ADDED THAT ATTACKS
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ON ZOUAR WERE ALREADY INCREASING, AND THAT IT SEEMED DOUBTFUL IF GARRISON THERE COULD HOLD OUT AGAINST DETERMINED REBEL EFFORT. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF ZOUAR SHOULD FALL THE ENTIRE NORTHWEST REGION OF CHAD WOULD BE SECURE FOR THE REBELS, AS THEY WOULD HOLD THE ONLY TWO AIRFIELDS IN THE REGION.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE WAS GOING FROM LIBREVILLE TO BRAZZVILLE AND RABAT TO SEEK ASSISTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHAD'S SITUATION. HE STATED THAT MOROCCO WAS GREATLY CONCERNED OVER LIBYAN THREAT IN THE SAHARA AND VIEWED THE MOVE IN NORTHERN CHAD AS ONLY THE FIRST IN AN EFFORT TO CREAT A "PROGRESSIVE MUSLIM STATE" WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS LARGE PORTIONS OF CHAD, NIGER AND ALGERIA. MOROCCANS BELIEVE EVENTUAL GOAL OF SUCH A STATE WOULD BE OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT OF RABAT. IN SAME VEIN, VICE PRESIDENT TOLD ME LATER THAT BARDAI WAS TO BE TURNED INTO MAJOR "SOVIET" BASE FOR OIBYAN OPERATIONS IN THE SAHARA. IN VIEW OF FOREGOI, AMBASSADOR SAID MOROCCANS ARE PREPARED TO OFFER CHAD "CONCRETE ASSISTANCE" AND FRANCE MIGHT COOPERATE IN SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.

4. COMMENTARY: WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO EVALUATE REMARKS ON MOROCCO. BUT IF MOROCCANS SHOULD DECIDE TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, IT MIGHT OFFER US AN AVENUE TO BE RESPONSIVE WITHOUT STARTING A CHADIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NDJAME02292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0402
Format: TEL
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770783/aaaactxh.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 215da66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1938015
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARDAI FALLS, ZOUAR UNDER INCREASED ATTACK
TAGS: PINS, MASS, CD, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/215da66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009